



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

NEWS RELEASE

Department of Toxic Substances Control

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For Immediate Release

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Lawrence Livermore Hazardous Waste Permit Issued

SACRAMENTO --The California Environmental Protection Agency's Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) today announced approval of a Hazardous Waste Facility Permit to Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL). The DTSC Permit was issued on May 27, 1999 and becomes effective on July 9, 1999, unless appealed. If not appealed, the permit will expire on July 9, 2009. The permit does not authorize any overall increase in waste storage and / or treatment capacity for this facility.

The permit authorizes LLNL to construct a \$32-million Decontamination and Waste Treatment Facility (DWTF) to replace current storage and treatment facilities used for hazardous and mixed wastes generated at LLNL. The facility would feature new waste treatment equipment, including closed top tanks with air pollution control devices, an advanced air monitoring system, an alarm system and state of the art process controls.

The permit would also authorize the continued operation of LLNL's existing container storage and treatment units at Area 612 and Building 693, and modification of an existing structure (Building 280) for storage of hazardous and mixed waste.

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) owns LLNL and jointly operates the facility with the University of California Regents. In operation since 1951, the laboratory is used to conduct research and development on magnetic fusion, nuclear energy, lasers, biomedical and environmental sciences and applied energy technologies.

The research and development programs at LLNL generate hazardous, mixed and combined wastes. Mixed wastes are hazardous wastes, regulated under the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), that also contain low level radioactive materials. Mixed wastes generated at LLNL include rinse water that contains organics or metals, spent caustic and acidic solutions, waste oils, soils from cleanup activities, scrap metal, waste treatment sludge and empty containers. Combined wastes are non-RCRA hazardous wastes that also contain low level radioactive materials. Combined wastes generated at the laboratory include waste oils, contaminated laboratory trash, and empty containers.

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Hazardous and mixed waste storage and treatment will be regulated under the conditions of the newly issued permit. The combined waste, which is regulated only under state law, will be regulated under terms of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between DTSC and DOE. Prior to executing the MOA, DTSC will solicit public comments and comply with the California Environmental Quality Act.

DTSC is one of six boards and Departments within the California Environmental Protection Agency. DTSC's mission is to protect and enhance public health and the environment by regulating the management of hazardous waste and promoting reduction.

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